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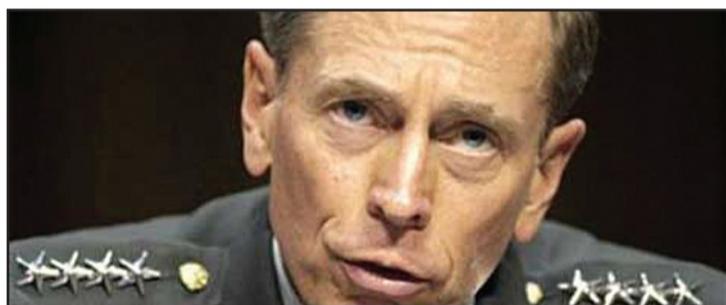
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Washington's Benghazi feud moves to Congress



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A rancorous feud between Republicans and President Barack Obama over the deadly attack on the US mission in Libya shifts to Congress, where lawmakers held Benghazi hearings yesterday and

senior figures are set to testify. Fallen spy chief David Petraeus, who resigned last week after confessing to an extramarital affair, is to face closed door hearings of the Senate and House intelligence committees today, officials said.



Super Food unveils what will be the largest and most impressive market in the Caribbean



See story on page 2

Introducing 4-days work week: a strategic option!

ORANJESTAD -- A series of changes in Aruba's labor laws have been presented to Parliament this week by the Minister of Labor. One of those changes is considered strategic and could benefit Aruban families. The change has to do with the introduction of a 4-days work week! The government wants to respond to the need that exists among working couples who contend that if one of them could work 4 days they would be able to provide better care for the family. This kind of employment flexibility has become common around the world.

The concept is being called the "compressed work week." Rather than work 5 days of 8 hours each, employees are given the option to work 4 days of 9 hours

each. The current situation on Aruba allows for only two possibilities, a 5 or 6 days work week.

It is believed that introducing a 4-day -9 hours a day week will greatly benefit

families who want to improve their financial situation, and still have time to dedicate to their family and live without worries.

Continued on page 5



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Panetta orders ethics review for US top brass

BANGKOK (AFP) - Defense Secretary Leon Panetta yesterday ordered US military commanders to carry out a review of ethics training among senior officers amid a widening sex scandal that cost CIA chief David Petraeus his job.

Recent cases of misconduct involving the top brass had "the potential to erode public confidence in our leadership and in our system for the enforcement of our high ethical standards", Panetta, on a tour of Asia, wrote in a memo to the military's top-ranking officer, General Martin Dempsey.

"Worse, they can be detrimental to the execution of our mission to defend the American people," he wrote.

The announcement comes in the wake of a scandal that prompted the resignation of the former four-star general and CIA director Petraeus, as well as a litany of allegations and disciplinary action against other senior military leaders.

Panetta directed Dempsey and the chiefs of the armed services to examine "existing

ethics training programs to determine if they are adequate" and to report back with their findings within a few weeks.

The Pentagon chief then planned to issue an initial report to President Barack Obama on the issue by December 1, according to the memo released to reporters.

Recent investigations and embarrassing revelations have painted a picture of a military leadership living a privileged existence, unlike the troops they lead, with critics saying the senior officer corps has become increasingly unaccountable.

Panetta's trip this week to Australia, Thailand and Cambodia has been often overshadowed by the unfolding Petraeus sex scandal, with the secretary asked about the case at news conferences at each stop.

US defence officials said the initiative aimed at promoting a stronger culture of ethics had been in the works even before the Petraeus affair erupted.

Will the new World Champion come from Aruba? Bols Around the World 2013 kicks off in two weeks

Michael van den Berg, General Manager Pepia-Est N.V., Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao reports that Bols, the famous Dutch liquor-maker, is once again gearing up for its wildly popular international bartending competition.

Bols around the World 2013 will kick off its seventh edition on December 1st 2012, after which professional bartenders in Aruba will be invited to go to the Bols web site and upload an original drink recipe. If this year's competition was any indication, contestants can expect a spectacular audiovisual event, where competitive bartending reaches a new level.

In the coming six months bartenders from 60 countries will be competing in three online heats to win a coveted place at the Global Final in Amsterdam. Only 20 bartenders will make it to Amsterdam for the semi-finals on the 2nd – 6th of May, of

which only 12 will go head to head at the Grand Final on the 7th of May. They will be judged by a prestigious panel made out of the most admired names in the industry.

One spot in the finals (and four spots in the semi-finals) will be reserved for a member of the Young Talent Program, a unique program that gives less experienced bartenders aged 21 and under the chance to compete head to head with the world's best bartenders. To help them reach this level of expertise, they will receive coaching from the Bols Bartending Academy throughout



the competition. The contest presents a great opportunity for all hospitality and culinary school students who are starting their bartender career.



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Holiday Inn unveils the upgraded Curacao Tower

Holiday Inn Aruba General Manager Patricia Perrone proudly welcomed Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, for the peek at the soon to be completed refreshed and renovated Curacao Tower on Wednesday morning, November 14. Joining Ms. Perrone from New York for the unveiling of their plans was Jonathan B. Sebbane of the Development Capital Investment & Transactions Department of InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) the parent company of the Holiday Inn franchise.



Rendering of new pool deck

Aside from the elegant, upscale improvements to the rooms, lobby, halls and façade of the Curacao Tower, the grounds will now sport an additional pool deck and attractive spa and fitness facility of almost 2,500 square feet.

The improvements to the Curacao Tower heralds further work throughout the resort, with upgrades in décor and ambiance to the Aruba and Bonaire towers as well. All the resort restaurants, particularly the Seabreeze beach front eatery, are to receive makeovers.

Prime Minister Eman



Jonathan Sebbane, PM Eman, Patricia Perrone and Minister Oduber

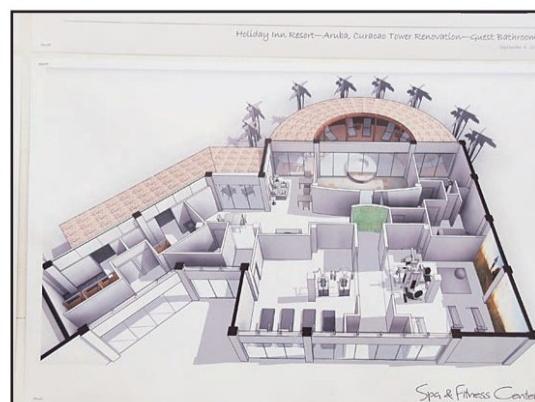
personally commended the IHG Group and Holiday Inn for their confidence in Aruba as a destination. He also

the Aruba facility is their most successful Caribbean resort, and one of their leading establishments in the world. He expressed his gratitude to the Aruban government for their cooperation and encouragement in bringing this section of the Holiday Inn, which has been closed since July of 2011, back online.

Minister Oduber asserted the additional 250 rooms of the Curacao Tower will be very much needed during the coming high season. The official opening, expected for late January 2013, early February at the latest, will be a greatly welcomed event. The hotel already has advanced bookings demonstrating the accommodations are in high demand.

Prime Minister Eman credited the energetic and dedicated team of the Ministry of Tourism and the ATA, as well as they loyal and congenial staff of the Holiday Inn, for creating that demand, and commended all for their commitment to Aruba's tourism industry.

Rosalie Klein



New Spa and Fitness Center

Dutch hospital probes international organ trafficking

THE HAGUE -- A Dutch university hospital backed by Europol is to lead an international enquiry into illegal organ trafficking to determine organised crime's involvement.

"Erasmus hospital wants to gather information about this serious and relatively new form of criminality in order to fight it better," Rotterdam's Erasmus university hospital said in a statement on Thursday.

Institutions in Romania, Sweden, Bulgaria and Spain will also take part in the three-year study, which is financed by the European Commission.

"Because of the great demand for organs, there are more and more indicators of 'organ tourism', whereby a patient travels abroad with the aim of receiving a transplanted organ which may have been bought," Erasmus said.

"Donors are often victims of human trafficking."

"We know little about how often this happens and how criminal organisations, doctors or others are involved," it added.

The study will focus on how exactly organs are ille-



gally removed, usually kidneys or livers.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as well as organ allocation body Eurotransplant and the European Society for Organ Transplantation are also taking part in the study.

An international probe has already been opened into allegations of organ trafficking by Kosovo Albanian rebels in the 1990s, including the removal of organs from live prisoners.

Council of Europe rapporteur Dick Marty alleged in a 2010 report that senior Kosovo Liberation Army commanders -- including current Kosovo prime minister Hashim Thaci -- were involved in organised crime.



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Introducing 4-days work week...

Continued from page 1

Reportedly, this change will also create more economic growth by creating more jobs as a result. This obviously will help reduce the unemployment rate on the island.

The government's intention with this change in the labor law is to promote trans-

quility with better incomes for families while affording them the opportunity to fulfill their responsibility as family. The political will for such flexibility has been demonstrated; now let's see what and how commerce will respond.

El Gaucho Argentine Grill: Previews renovated Caminito dining room to press members



El Gaucho Argentine Grill recently introduced its renovated Caminito dining room to members of the press who were impressed with the unique décor and refreshed look of the restaurant's heart of the house.

Caminito, a charming Buenos Aires neighborhood, known for its bohemian and picturesque artist ateliers, wine bars and Tango clubs, comes alive in Aruba at El Gaucho Argentine Grill with original painting by Silvio Bufalini.

The restaurant flaunts real cow hide seats to complement the intimate booths, and also enjoys many new artistic accents and features.

Press members were entertained over delicious Land & Sea Picada for lunch, with white and red sangria, to live strolling guitar music, topped off by El Gaucho's signature trio dessert.

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Super Food unveils largest, most impressive...

Continued from page 2

Other stores occupying the plaza will be a Coldwell Banker Realtors office, a branch of Aruba Bank, Sun Specs Opticians, and more.

Grand Opening of the new complex is set for Tuesday, November 20. During the press conference, some initial glitches with the data entry

system for the cash registers were reported, which may delay it a day or two; the market is doing their utmost to remedy the situation and open on schedule.

The new Super Food very much reflects the "dream market" philosophy of the owners, and nearly any food retailer.



An entire section for specials of the week



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They expect to employ over 150 at the facility to provide speedy help and checkout. It will offer Aruban shoppers a place where they will enjoy doing their food shopping and care to linger, while consumer needs are met at the best price, with efficient service.

Rosalie Klein

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

International news

Violence ravaging Sao Paolo overflows to the south

BRASILIA (AFP) - Assailants in Brazil set fire to buses and shot up government buildings, as a wave of violence blamed on jail-based gangs exacting revenge against police apparently spread from Sao Paolo, police said yesterday.

The new battleground is Santa Catarina state bordering Sao Paolo. The violence overnight left two people wounded, while 17 buses were set ablaze and gutted.

Authorities are probing possible links between the violence ravaging the cities of Sao Paolo and Florianopolis, capital of Santa Catarina, said Alessandro Marques, a spokesman for the military police.

The violence is blamed on gangs operating out of prison and seeking revenge against

police for anti-drug operations or the toughening of living conditions inside prisons. No one was hurt in the attacks on the buses because the assailants got all the passengers off before setting them on fire.

Five police stations and a government building have been shot up in the past four days in Florianopolis. Two police patrol cars and eight private cars were also shot at.

Bus service was suspended overnight Wednesday, and a total of 30 people were detained over their suspected role in the violence.

Sao Paulo, meanwhile, continues to endure horrific nights of violence. Overnight Wednesday to Thursday 11 people were killed, media reports said, quoting police.



New York City : AFP photo shows US President Barack Obama speaking to residents in Staten Island, New York, as he reviewed areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy yesterday. He was accompanied by Senator Chuck Schumer, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and members of FEMA. As anger mounted around New York against utility companies that have yet to restore full power, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama "made clear that restoring power is an absolute priority, and he continues to make that clear." Carney said the White House had put forward \$1.5 billion for recovery efforts, including \$600 million already approved for direct assistance.

Two BP supervisors charged with manslaughter

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Two BP supervisors were charged with involuntary manslaughter for the well blowout that killed 11 workers and unleashed a huge oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, US prosecutors said yesterday.

A third BP employee was also charged with obstruction of justice for lying about how much oil was gushing out of the runaway well after the Deepwater Horizon rig sank in April 2010.

Attorney General Eric Holder cautioned that more people may yet face prosecution after announcing a deal to settle criminal charges against the British energy giant for \$4 billion.

"It's an ongoing investigation," Holder told reporters.

"We'll continue to follow all credible leads and pursue any charges that are warranted."

Holder also noted that the justice department had "failed to resolve" its civil case to determine how much BP should pay in fines under the Clean Water Act and other environmental rules.



Fire crews battled flames after the explosion of the offshore oil rig Deepwater Horizon in April 2010, off the coast of Louisiana.

Those fines could amount to as much as \$18 billion if gross negligence is found.

"We're looking forward to the trial -- which is scheduled to begin in February of next year -- in which we intend to prove that BP was grossly negligent in causing the oil spill," Holder said.

He heralded yesterday's "historic" settlement of BP's criminal charges as a "critical step forward."

"I hope this sends a clear message to those who engage

Tymoshenko agrees to end hunger strike

KHARKIV, The Ukraine (AFP) - Jailed Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko has agreed to end her hunger strike, her doctor said yesterday, over two weeks after she stopped eating in protest at alleged fraud in polls won by the country's ruling party.

The ex-premier and 2004 Orange revolution leader has been refusing food since October 29 as she serves out a seven-year sentence for abuse of power while in office which she says is part of a political vendetta by her arch-foe President Victor Yanukovych.

"From tomorrow (Friday), she will stop her hunger

strike," her German doctor Lutz Harms said, according to an Interfax news agency report.

"She is very weak," added Harms' colleague Annette Reischauer.



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International news

US hopes for 'constructive' ties with new China leader

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States voiced hope yesterday that China would play a greater role solving global problems as it said it expected a "constructive" relationship with Beijing's new leaders.

Hours after China unveiled a new leadership team headed by Xi Jinping, US national security adviser Tom Donilon said that President Barack Obama would keep the relationship with China as a priority as he enters his second term.

"I think we have put in place the mechanisms to have a productive and constructive relationship and look forward to working with the new leadership team in Beijing," Donilon said.

Speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Donilon renewed US calls for China to play a role commensurate with its growing size and said Beijing's leadership was critical on issues such as North Korea, Iran, climate change and the global economy.

"The US-China relationship

Israel presses Gaza assault as rocket panics Tel Aviv



BEIT LAHIA -- Palestinian men try to pull out civilians blocked in a car after an Israeli air raid on the area of Twaam in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahia yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories (AFP) - Militants yesterday defied a major Israeli bombing campaign across Gaza today, firing off volleys of rockets which killed three Israelis and sparked panic in Tel Aviv.

As Palestinian deaths from relentless air strikes on Gaza mounted, Defence Minister Ehud Barak gave the go-ahead for 30,000 reservists to be called up and the military said it was "in the process of expanding the campaign."

Egypt, meanwhile, an-

of course has elements of both cooperation and competition. Our consistent policy has been to seek to balance these elements in a way that increases the quality and quantity of our cooperation with China as well as our (ability) to compete," he said.

"We seek to manage disagreements and competition in a healthy, not disruptive manner. And doing so means encouraging Beijing to define its national interests more in terms of common global concerns and to take responsibility for helping the international community address global problems," he said.

Donilon, considered a dark-horse candidate to replace Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, has been a key architect of Obama's policy on China.

The Obama administration in the past two years has put a priority on reaching out to Xi, who is China's vice president and will succeed President Hu Jintao when the rubber-stamp legislature confirms the appointment in March.



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Walmart probing corruption in several countries

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Walmart said yesterday that it was probing corruption allegations against it in Brazil, China and India in addition to the ongoing US and Mexican government investigations over its Mexico activities.

In a statement to the Securities and Exchange Commission and in a public release, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said the investigations related to possible violations of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Since the launch of an internal review of FCPA compliance in 2011, the giant global retailer said, it has "identified or been made aware of additional allegations regarding potential violations of the FCPA."

"We have inquiries or investigations regarding allegations of potential FCPA violations in a number of foreign markets where we operate,"



\$99 million in the nine months to October 31.

Speaking to shareholders in June, Walmart chairman Robson Walton vowed the retailer would not tolerate corrupt acts, promising "a thorough and comprehensive inquiry" into the Mexico accusations.

Since then allegations of wrongdoing elsewhere have cropped up.

Last month Walmart denied accusations it broke rules banning foreign investment in Indian supermarkets as it tries to build a presence in the world's second most populous country.

Any investments were "in complete compliance with India's foreign direct investment laws" and all "processes have been duly followed and details filed with relevant Indian government authorities," a Walmart spokeswoman told AFP.

HEALTH & LIVING

Synthetic drug-use in Europe at all-time high: agency

PARIS (AFP) - Europe is being bombarded with an array of new, synthetic drugs of which the ingredients and effects on users are unknown, the continent's drug agency warned in a report on Thursday.

While cocaine and cannabis remain the most popular illicit drugs, new synthetic substances are being detected at a rate of about one a week -- a fast-rising trend, according to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

A total of 49 new synthetic drugs were detected by law enforcers in 2011, and more than another 50 so far this year.

For the period 2005-2011, the total had been 164.

"More than ever before, young people are exposed to a plethora of powders and pills," the agency said in a statement.

"Data from emergency rooms, toxicology reports and drug treatment centres indicate that the associated risks are not always well known by the users."

The new psychoactive substances are sold on the illegal drug market but also sometimes on the Internet.

A study in January found nearly 700 online stores selling so-called "legal highs", which the report warned often contained "obscure" chemicals or mixtures of chemicals, and have caused several acute medical emergencies and deaths.

"The number of products containing multiple psychoactive substances appears to be rising, and some test purchase samples have been

found to include both controlled and non-controlled substances," it said.

"Consumers of these products are likely to be both unaware of what they are consuming and ignorant of the health and legal implications."

These synthetic drugs include cathinones, which can mimic the effects of cocaine, and cannabinoids which have similar effects to marijuana.

Heroin remains responsible for the majority of drug-related deaths in Europe -- about 7,000 in 2010.

Other than cocaine, ecstasy and amphetamines were the main illicit stimulants.

Some 15.5 million Europeans between the ages of 15 and 64 have tried cocaine in their lifetime -- some four million used it in the last year.

Vitamin D in pregnancy may prevent multiple sclerosis

PARIS (AFP) - Researchers said Thursday they have found evidence that Vitamin D supplements for pregnant women in the world's colder, darker countries may stave off multiple sclerosis (MS) in their offspring.

The finding adds to a growing body of work showing a link between low Vitamin D levels and the debilitating disease, which sees the immune system attacking the body's own nerve fibres.

Data on more than 150,000 MS patients born in places north of 52 degrees, revealed a heightened risk for those born in April -- a month preceded by a long period

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without sunlight, said a paper in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.

Of the total, 13,300 were born in April compared to 11,600 in November -- a lower-risk month after summer in the northern hemisphere, British researchers wrote.

The data was taken from individuals born between 1930 and 1980, from studies done in Britain, the United States, Italy, Israel, Finland, Scotland, Sweden and Canada -- parts of which see little sunlight between the months of October and March.

About 100,000 people in Britain and about 400,000 in

the United States are believed to suffer from MS, a disease that affects vision, movement, balance, sensation, bladder control and eventually also memory and thinking. There is no cure.

Study co-author Sreeram Ramagopalan from the Queen Mary University of London told AFP the findings amounted to an added MS risk of five percent for people born in April -- about five extra births per million.

"Pregnant mothers need to ensure they are Vitamin D replete at all times," Ramagopalan said in an email exchange.

"Because Vitamin D deficiency is a massive problem

at the moment due to living at high latitudes and lifestyle changes (wearing sunscreen etc), mothers may need to take several thousand international units of Vitamin D3 to become Vitamin D replete."

Humans need Vitamin D, which our bodies produce from exposure to sunlight or extract from food, for healthy bones

Suspected links between a lack of vitamin D and an increased risk of death, including from heart disease and certain types of cancer, have been the subject of medical research for several years.

Researchers have also focused on its possible role in MS.

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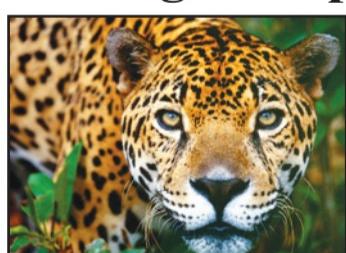
SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Wireless earpiece maker Jawbone this week released redesigned UP wristbands that combine fashion with smartphone lifestyles to help people along paths to improved fitness.

New UP wristbands debuted in the United States with a \$129 price tag nearly a year after original models were pulled from the market due to problems caused by moisture fouling up electronics in the "wearable computers."

UP presents data in bar graphs and timelines that show patterns and reveal how close people are to achieving fitness goals. The bands can signal people when they have been idle for more than 45 minutes.

"We launched to great fanfare, UP was our fastest selling product ever, and then we started hearing about the issues," Jawbone vice president Travis Bogard said

Brazil eyes cloning to bolster endangered species



BRASILIA (AFP) - Scientists in Brazil will try cloning endangered animal species like the jaguar, a researcher said Wednesday.

"The idea is to start with an animal that is endangered, or where species numbers have gone down sharply, such as the jaguar, the maned wolf or even the local deer," said Carlos Frederico Martins, a researcher with Embrapa Cerrado.

State-run Embrapa, the government's animal re-

search unit, is launching the effort jointly with the Brasilia Zoo, the institutions told AFP. They are set to sign a joint agreement.

The research will also include experiments on artificial insemination and embryo transplants for species at risk.

A cloned animal would not be released back to nature, and would contribute little to saving its species in the short run.

But over time, animals that underwent artificial insemination or embryo transplants could be released.

Martins said it could be a few years before a wild animal is cloned in Brazil. A cow has already been cloned in the country and was born in March 2001.



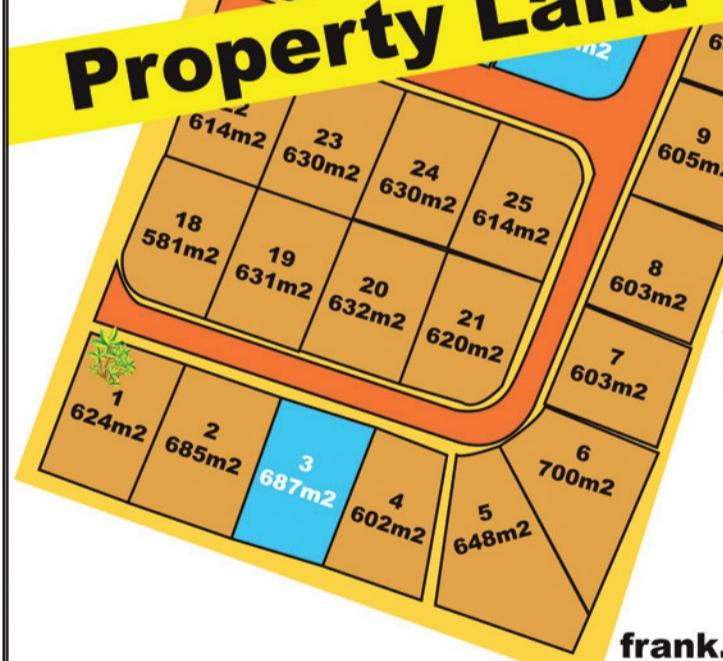
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Lab looking at pigs link to Ebola virus

PARIS (AFP) - Could pigs be an unexpected source for transmitting the deadly Ebola virus?

That is the question raised by a Canadian lab study, which says six piglets deliberately infected with Ebola passed the virus on to macaque monkeys housed in

wire cages inside their pig pen.

All four monkeys caught the virus through indirect contact, according to the investigation.

Further work is needed but the findings are worrying as macaques are close genetic relatives to humans, said the

researchers.

Fruit bats are a known "reservoir," or bolthole, for the Ebola virus, and people have also contracted the disease after handling infected chimps, gorillas, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope and porcupines.

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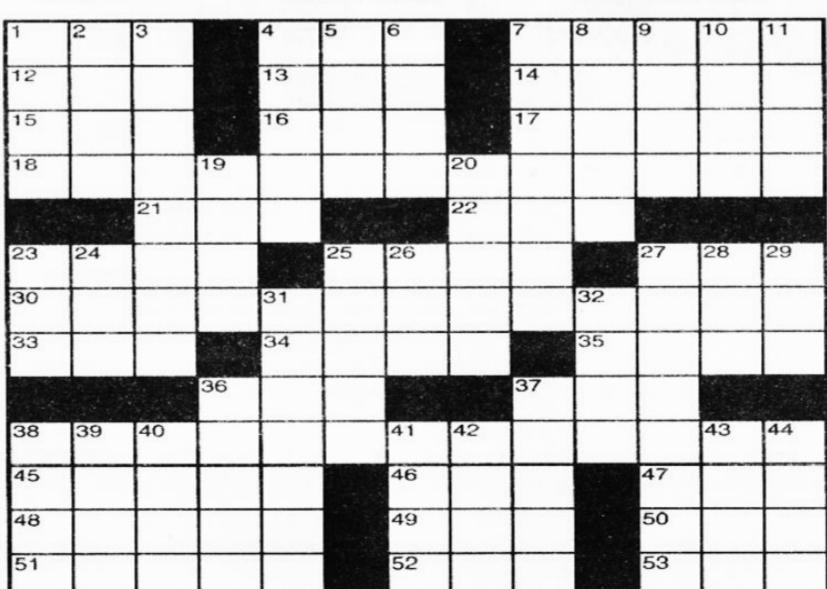
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ACROSS

- Monk's title
- Quid pro —
- Stable mothers
- Legendary bird
- Vase
- "I could — unfold..." ("Hamlet")
- Vague list ender
- "The ___ of Anxiety"
- Fit for a king
- Sudden storm
- ___ adjudicata
- Whelp
- Uzbekistan's sea
- Monk's title
- Quid pro —
- Stable mothers
- Legendary bird
- Vase
- "I could — unfold..." ("Hamlet")
- Vague list ender
- "The ___ of Anxiety"
- Fit for a king
- Sudden storm
- ___ adjudicata
- Whelp
- Uzbekistan's sea



CHECK WITH WEATHER

- Sean Lennon's mom
- Cote sound
- Bevels
- Draft beer conduit
- Goal
- Guitar bar
- Actress Lillian
- Good reporter's goal
- Campus commons, for short
- Desire
- Doozy
- Theater sign
- ...sting like —" (Ali)
- Quick to learn
- Safe haven in a storm
- Stack material
- Hot times in Arles
- podrida
- 401, to Caesar
- "The Greatest"
- Pioneer's light source
- Exhaust
- The: Sp.
- "...borrower — a lender be"
- Au revoir
- Enjoyed, slangily
- Melody for Shankar
- Israeli airline
- Vend
- 1994 Jodie Foster film
- Glasses, for short
- German cry
- Scandinavian rug
- Playful trick
- Sting source
- Coalition
- Friend
- Melodic syllable
- Antigone's father and brother
- Hang around
- Vinegar vessel
- "The Hare and the Tortoise" author
- Investigative gp. formed in 1938
- Meat inspectors: abbr.
- Restraint
- "Little Things Mean —"
- Zola novel
- "Bad — Rising" (1969 hit)
- Cattleman's aid

SOLUTION

2	4	8	6	5	3	9	7	1
7	1	6	2	8	9	5	3	4
3	9	5	7	1	4	8	2	6
4	5	1	3	4	7	6	8	2
6	3	7	5	6	2	1	4	9
4	6	2	8	9	1	7	5	3
5	8	9	4	3	6	2	1	7
1	2	3	9	7	5	4	6	8
6	7	4	1	2	8	3	9	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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Sudoku

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SOLUTION

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4	5	1	3	4	7	6	8	2
6	3	7	5	6	2	1	4	9
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6	7	4	1	2	8	3	9	5



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FINANCE

Bernanke: Joblessness, housing still worry Fed

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said yesterday that the Fed remains "quite concerned" about unemployment and that the US housing market remains a "critical challenge" for the country.

With the unemployment rate still at 7.9 percent in October, and seven percent of mortgage borrowers in default on loan payments, turning the housing market around is important for strengthening the economic recovery, he said.

The Economist: France is Europe's 'time-bomb'

PARIS (AFP) - After accusing the French of being in "denial" during the presidential election campaign in late March, the British weekly The Economist now says that France is "the time-bomb at the heart of Europe."

"The crisis could hit as early as next year," the magazine warned in a cover story to appear today with the sub-title: "Why France could become the biggest danger to Europe's single currency."

The Economist takes French President Francois Hollande and Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault to task for delaying crucial reforms, say-

In a speech in Atlanta on the housing market, Bernanke said there were still two million houses in foreclosure and that 20 percent of homeowners remained "underwater" on their homes -- that is, they owe more on the mortgage than the home is worth.

But he also said that the rebound in the market is being held back by banks' having overly tightened lending standards, so that borrowers with less than average credit ratings cannot obtain home loans.

ing in a separate French language statement: "Neither Mr. Hollande nor Mr. Ayrault appear to be the kind of leader courageous enough to impose reforms against generalised opposition."

France's new Socialist government does appear to understand how serious the economic situation in Europe has become and the need for reforms that allow the economy to compete more effectively on a global level, the British weekly acknowledged.

But it expressed concern "that these recent changes come too late and are insufficient."

BP to pay record \$4.5 bn fine over US oil spill

WASHINGTON (AFP) - BP agreed yesterday to pay a record \$4.5 billion in US fines for the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill and will plead guilty to obstruction and criminal negligence in the deaths of 11 workers.

The company's reputation was ravaged after an April 20, 2010 explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon rig killed 11 workers and unleashed the biggest marine oil spill in the industry's history.

It took 87 days to cap BP's runaway Macondo well 5,000 feet (1,500 meters) below the water surface as it spewed some 4.9 million barrels (206 million gallons) of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Yesterday's settlement does not close the book on the British energy giant's lengthy and complex legal battle over the devastating spill and must still be approved by a federal judge.

BP is also still on the hook for economic damages, including the cost of environmental rehabilitation, and could pay as much as \$18 billion in civil penalties.

The massive criminal fine -- which will be paid over six years -- will be relatively easy for BP to absorb. It has a market value of \$127 billion and last month hiked its shareholder dividend after posting a bumper third quarter profit of \$5.43 billion.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	W	E	D		W	I	S	H		B	L	T
H	O	P	E		A	R	I	C		O	U	I
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S	Y	S	D	E	S	K	E	D	E	N		

Current as of:
11/15/2012

Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A. USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britain GBP	2.75	2.80	2.86
Switzerland CHF	188.49	189.21	190.01
Netherlands EUR	225.14	227.19	229.47
Sweden SEK	25.28	26.00	26.80
Denmark DKK	29.49	30.21	31.01
Norway NOK	29.91	30.63	31.43
Japan JPY	217.19	219.17	221.37
(per 10,000)			

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Euro zone slips into second recession since 2009



BRUSSELS -- The eurozone has slipped into recession for a second time in four years, as the sharp fall in activity in debt-ridden southern Europe economies weighed on output across the region.

Eurostat's first reading of gross domestic product for the three months ended in September showed a contraction of 0.1% in the eurozone, after a decline of 0.2% in the second quarter -- confirming the 17-nation currency area is back in recession for the first time since 2009.

Germany and France, the euro zone's biggest economies, could not save the bloc from a double-dip recession even though both countries managed 0.2% growth in the quarter. Large countries like Italy, Spain and the Netherlands all contracted and Belgium, a big exporter, stagnated.

Triple warning: Major rating agencies consider cutting US rating

The United States could see its sovereign triple-A rating downgraded next year if it fails to address its upcoming fiscal problems and reduce the \$1 trillion deficit, Fitch, Moody's and the S&P, the three US major rating agencies warn.

As the US is going to reach the federal debt limit of \$16.39 trillion by the end of 2012, experts are concerned the authorities haven't provided a sustainable strategy to reduce borrowing.

"The rating is in the hands of policymakers," said John Chambers, Chairman of Standard & Poor's, the agency that was first to downgrade the US in August 2011.

The agencies said they will closely watch debt ceiling talks next year, as the raising of the debt limit is likely to result in a downgrade.

The so-called 'fiscal cliff' looming in early 2013 is another major threat for the US financial stability and therefore its rating. The 'fiscal cliff' of conjoined tax raises and spending cuts, which come into force in January, is expected to result in a 5% GDP tightening and a probable slow down of the economy.

"If no budget deal is reached in the early part of next year and the debt trajectory just continues to rise ... then we'd be looking at a downgrade of a notch to Aa1," Bart Oosterveld, Managing Director at Moody's agency said.

Should that happen, it would drive the country's cost of borrowing higher and negatively affect investment attractiveness of the United States, experts say.

New York Times review puts chef in hot water



NEW YORK (AFP) - Celebrity TV chef Guy Fieri was chopping mad Thursday after being sliced and diced in a scathing New York Times review of his soggy fries and "nuclear waste" drinks.

The review was served up Tuesday but the fallout continued to brew Thursday with the dissed chef firing back in an interview on ABC television that the Times had "another agenda."

According to the Times, Guy's American Kitchen & Bar, opened by Fieri two months ago on Times Square, is not fit for any guy.

Loading its review with a menu of sarcasm-slathered questions, the Times began with: "Guy Fieri, have you eaten at your new restaurant in Times Square?"

From there, things only got more sour.

"What exactly about a small salad with four or five miniature croutons makes Guy's Famous Big Bite Caesar (a) big (b) famous or (c) Guy's, in any meaningful sense?" the Times wondered.

"Hey, did you try that blue drink, the one that glows like nuclear waste? The watermelon margarita? Any idea why it tastes like some combination of radiator fluid and formaldehyde?"

The reviewer, Pete Wells, spared Fieri on no aspect of his venture -- neither the "limp and oil-sogged" French fries, nor the "crazy vortex" of the over-the-top adjectives used to list items on the restaurant's menu.

Fieri, who is well known on TV's Food Network as an enthusiast of fatty American comfort food and has five restaurants in California, did not take the criticism sitting down.

"I just thought it was ridiculous," he told the Today show. Fans have taken to his defense on Facebook, accusing Wells of jealousy, but the Times man has his own online backers, one of them even proposing marriage.

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Bono deems corruption world's 'biggest killer'



WASHINGTON (AFP) - U2 star Bono declared corruption "the biggest killer of them all" on Wednesday at the World Bank as he expressed concern over the "fiscal cliff" facing the US budget.

"Everybody here knows that the biggest killer of them all -- biggest killer of them all, bigger killer than AIDS,



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and yard clean

TB, malaria, probably the lot together -- is corruption," said the Irish rocker, who co-founded the anti-poverty ONE campaign.

"And it's not just corruption south of the Equator; it's corrupt ideas north of the Equator, and sometimes actual corruption north of the Equator," Bono said during an hour-long public exchange with World Bank President Jim Yong Kim.

According to Bono, who peppered his serious speech with jokes, guaranteeing transparency would be the biggest "turbo-charger" to the fight against extreme poverty.

Before an enraptured audience, the megaband superstar also said he fears the consequences on poor countries of the "fiscal cliff," a poison-pill agreement between Republicans and Democrats that forces harsh budget cuts and tax increases from January 1.

"There's so much pain coming from the economic downturn and recession and this fiscal cliff," Bono said, adding that it threatens "real jeopardy."

Bono said several hundreds of thousands of people across the globe would see critical aid programs cut if the US government does not negotiate a solution to avert the disastrous cuts and tax increases.

"We know there's going to be cuts," he said, referring to expected budget slashing as the US works to reduce its ballooning deficit.

"But not cuts that cost lives."

\$40.4 million Kline work sets record at Christie's

NEW YORK (AFP) - A canvas of violent black brushstrokes by abstract expressionist Franz Kline sold for \$40.4 million at Christie's in New York on Wednesday, setting a new record by far for the artist.

The result was four times higher than the previous high auction price for Kline, whose works have tended to be overshadowed by those of more famous abstract artists like Mark Rothko.

Appraisers had estimated the painting, which is untitled, would sell for between \$20 million and \$30 million.

The sale was one of a string of strong results at the Christie's contemporary art auction in Manhattan, a night after rival Sotheby's held a blockbuster sale netting \$375 million, a record for the company in a single auction.

Andy Warhol's "Statue of Liberty" sold for \$43.76 million at Christie's, while an-

other Warhol, "Marlon," which depicts the actor Marlon Brando in familiar brooding pose, sold for \$23.7 million, above the high end of the pre-sale estimate.

Jeff Koons' sculpture "Tulips," featuring his trademark shiny, colored metal, fetched \$33.7 million, while a Roy Lichtenstein, "Nude with Red Shirt," sold for \$28 million, far above the \$18 million high estimate.

Another home-run for Christie's was an untitled Jean-Michel Basquiat work that went for \$26.4 million, while Rothko's "Black Stripe (Orange, Gold and Black)," went for \$21.4 million, just above the high estimate.

Gerhard Richter's "Abstraktes Bild (779-2)," estimated at \$12-18 million, sold for \$15.3 million.

However, another Richter that had been estimated at \$9-12 million and another at \$10-15 million were among the works that failed to sell.

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, (\$4.49 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facil-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

SPORTS

Stepanek, Ferrer to open Davis Cup final



PRAGUE (AFP) - The Czech Republic's Radek Stepanek and Spain's David Ferrer will open the action at the Davis Cup final here, following Thursday's draw.

Ferrer, the world number five and Spain's top player in Prague, will face 37th-ranked Stepanek at 4:00 pm (1500 GMT) on Friday on the hardcourt of Prague's O2 Arena.

After that meeting, world number six and Czech number one Tomas Berdych will take on Spain's Nicolas Almagro, the world number 11.

"I prefer David to start because of his experience," Spain captain Alex Corretja told reporters. "He has played more finals" than Almagro."

Ferrer, who has won six out of his nine games against Stepanek, predicted a tough tie, similar to their five-setter in 2009 when Spain thrashed the Czechs 5-0 in the Davis Cup finals.

"It was an amazing match and this time it's going to be similar. I'll have to play my best tennis to beat him," said the 30-year-old Ferrer.

Spain have won three Davis Cup trophies in the last four years, and they also won the competition in 2000 and 2004.

Czechoslovakia, which split peacefully into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, won the Davis Cup in 1980 with a team led by the then 20-year-old Ivan Lendl.

Stepanek said he might ask Lendl for advice before the game with Ferrer as Lendl coaches Andy Murray, whose encounters with the Spaniard are more frequent.

"I might have a question. But I have played an awful lot of games against Ferrer," Stepanek said.

"I know Ferrer is a big fighter, you really have to earn your points against him," he added.

As if to retaliate for the heavy clay chosen by Spain for the 2009 finals in Barcelona, the Czechs have opted for a superfast Novacrylic Ultracushion hardcourt.

Ferrer admitted earlier this week he was not very happy with the court, but then decided Spain had "a very good team to play very good tennis on this type of surface."

The 33-year-old Stepanek was more enthusiastic.

"I will try to use the surface to play my aggressive tennis," he said.

"It's our second final against the same rival in different conditions, we will want to make this work to our advantage."

Berdych said the game might be less demanding on a hardcourt than on clay, but added that the fast-serving Almagro might benefit from the surface too.

"He has a few weapons that can be unpleasant on this surface, including his serve," he said.

"The rubber will be terribly hard," said Berdych, adding that he was looking forward to playing in front of a crowd of almost 14,000.

"The crowds are an unofficial part of the team and they always help us a lot. This is why you play tennis," said Berdych, who has so far beaten Almagro eight times in 11 encounters.

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Track designer predicts Austin thriller

AUSTIN, Texas (AFP) - The new Circuit of the Americas that hosts this weekend's potentially decisive United States Grand Prix will be one of the biggest challenges of the season for the drivers and teams.

That is the view of track designer Hermann Tilke, who says he believes the track's spectacular layout will not be easy to conquer and will ensure thrills for the spectators.

The circuit is newly designed and built for this Sunday's showdown as defending champion German Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull bids to become the sport's

youngest triple champion.

He needs to out-score nearest rival two-time champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso of Ferrari by 15 points to add the 2012 title to his 2010 and 2011 crowns.

Tilke, however, thinks that the venue's configuration - which includes a dramatic rising blind apex at Turn One and cambered high-speed sections - will be a dramatic challenge.

"I think there are some real difficult parts of this track, and hopefully it will be one of the most challenging," said Tilke.

"Turn 1 goes steeply uphill and then the elevation turns sharply into a downhill sector, so the drivers will not see the apex of the corner. It will be blind."

"I expect in first practice the drivers will make many mistakes, but they are so good they will learn it quickly because they are the best in the world."

"After Turn 1 there is a 'snake' section, which is very fast and orientation will be difficult for the drivers. The track also goes up and down, and there is also one corner which is banked the wrong way (adverse camber)."

"For the drivers it will be hard, it will be difficult to set up the car and it will be tough to keep the tyres running correctly too. That could mean there are more problems with the tyres, which will be good for the race."

Vonn released from US hospital



on Friday because she did not feel well.

She also skipped a World Cup slalom in Finland at the weekend, preferring to prepare for the giant slalom and slalom set for Aspen, Colorado, on November 24-25.

Vonn, who has won four of the past five women's downhill season crowns, had hoped to compete against men at Lake Louise, Alberta, on November 24.

However, that request was turned down by the International Ski Federation.

Last year Vonn posted 14 victories to finish atop the World Cup points standings with 1,980 and reclaim the overall crown. Maria Hoefl-Riesch was 578 points back in second place.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - American skiing sensation Lindsey Vonn is recovering at her home after being released from a Colorado hospital on Wednesday, her spokesman said.

The four-time overall alpine World Cup champion was discharged two days after being treated for "severe intestinal pain".

Lewis Kay said Vonn underwent a number of tests while in hospital and was feeling well enough to go home.

"Doctors are still working to determine what specifically was the cause of her illness but thankfully she has responded well to their treatment."

Kay did not go into details about what type of treatment she received or the reason for the hospitalization.

Vonn cancelled a promotional event in Vail, Colorado

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Leftwich replaces injured Roethlisberger



PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (AFP) - Byron Leftwich will start at quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers in place of Ben Roethlisberger who was hurt in Monday's win over Kansas City, the team announced Wednesday.

Roethlisberger sprained the sternoclavicular joint in his right shoulder after being sacked in the third quarter of the Steelers 16-13 overtime victory over the Chiefs. Roethlisberger completed seven of 14 passes for 73 yards.

He was being examined by team doctors this week and the Steelers said they didn't know when he would be able to return.

Leftwich will make his first NFL start since September 2009 when the Steelers face the Baltimore Ravens in a key divisional matchup Sunday.

Pittsburgh enters Sunday's contest trailing the Ravens by one game for first place in the American Football Conference's North Division.

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DeMarco puts title on line against unbeaten Broner

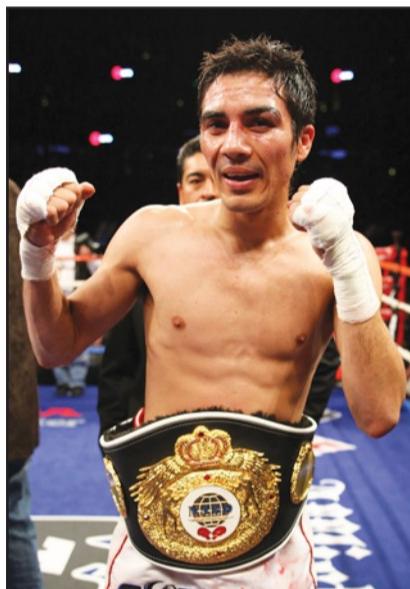
ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AFP) - Mexico's Antonio DeMarco puts his World Boxing Council lightweight world title on the line against unbeaten Adrian Broner Saturday in storm-ravaged Atlantic City.

DeMarco, who claimed the vacant title with an 11th-round technical knockout of Jorge Linares in October of last year, will be fighting for the first time since stopping John Molina just 44 seconds into their title bout in September.

DeMarco, who brings a record of 28-2-1 with 21 knockouts to the bout, has won five straight fights, but in the 24-0 Broner he'll face perhaps his toughest challenge to date.

Broner, a former World Boxing Organization super-featherweight world champion who surrendered his belt after failing to make weight for a planned defence against Vicente Escobar in July, sounded a confident note this week about stepping up in weight.

"He was fighting good guys, but he wasn't fighting



Adrien Broner," Broner said of DeMarco's current winning streak. "I'm stronger than a lot of people think. On Saturday you'll see that."

The challenger promised an exciting spectacle.

"You're not just coming to a boxing show, you're coming to the Adrien Broner show," he said. "It's going to be fun, it's going to be entertaining."

The fight at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall brings boxing back to an area hit hard by superstorm Sandy.

Golden Boy Promotions is donating a portion of ticket sales to the local Girls and

Boys Clubs, whose buildings were damaged in the storm, with Golden Boy owner Oscar de la Hoy and Caesars Atlantic City promising matching donations.

"We are hoping that the Broner v DeMarco fight will afford people the opportunity to forget their worries for an evening and enjoy this great night of boxing," said Richard Schaefer, chief executive of Golden Boy Promotions.

"At the same time we understand the severity of the situation and would be remiss not to make a donation to help those directly effected by this terrible storm."

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Cyclists' body calls for tougher doping sanctions

PARIS (AFP) - Professional cyclists have called for tougher sanctions for dope cheats, the sport's governing body has said, as it seeks to restore its reputation after the damaging Lance Armstrong drug scandal.

The International Cycling Union's (UCI) athletes commission made the recommendation after a three-day meeting in Switzerland which looked at ways of improving how the sport was run and

boosting its tarnished image.

"The commission proposed stiffening the sanctions against riders found guilty of doping in order to have a dissuasive effect," the world body said in a statement on its website uci.ch.

"In this respect, the athletes' commission supports the UCI regulations introduced on July 1 2011 that prohibit any person involved in a doping case from returning to cycling in any post or

position of responsibility.

"Furthermore, the commission proposed sanctioning the teams and the entourage of riders who test positive and not just the rider him or herself."

Members of the body include male and female cyclists and para-cyclists. Their proposals will be transmitted to the UCI, national federations, anti-doping agencies, competition organisers and professional groups, among others, the statement added.



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Dickey, Price win Cy Young Awards

**R.A. Dickey**

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Mets knuckleball pitcher R.A. Dickey capped a storybook season by being named the National League's Cy Young Award winner on Wednesday.

**David Price**

Tampa Bay Rays southpaw David Price captured Cy Young honors in the American League as the three-time All-Star compiled a 20-5 record with 205 strikeouts and a league-best 2.56 earned

run average. "I am speechless," Dickey said. "But now that I have had time to reflect on it, it is fun to win an award you can celebrate with so many people. This is an award to be shared."

The 38-year-old Dickey finished first on 27 of 32 ballots as he easily defeated runner-up Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Dickey, who had not won more than 11 games in a season previously in his nine-year career, finished with a 20-6 record and a 2.73 earned run average.

He also became the first pitcher in the history of Major League Baseball to throw one-hit complete games with 10 or more strikeouts in two consecutive starts. He accomplished the feat over five days in mid-June.

Dickey is the Mets' first 20-game winner since Frank Viola in 1990. He previously had bounced around four different organizations -- Texas, Milwaukee, Minnesota and

Seattle -- before joining the Mets two years ago.

Dickey is also the first knuckleballer to win the award.

"To say that a knuckleballer won the Cy Young, maybe it brings some real validity to what the pitch can do," Dickey said.

In one of the closest votes in AL history, Price edged out Detroit's Justin Verlander by just four points.

The 27-year-old Tampa Bay ace was first on 14 of the 28 ballots placed and second on 13 others.

Price, who broke into the majors in 2008, finished sec-

ond to Seattle's Felix Hernandez in the 2010 AL Cy Young race after going 19-6 with a 2.72 ERA.

He pitched seven innings or more in 23 of his 31 starts this season and allowed two earned runs or fewer in 23 games.

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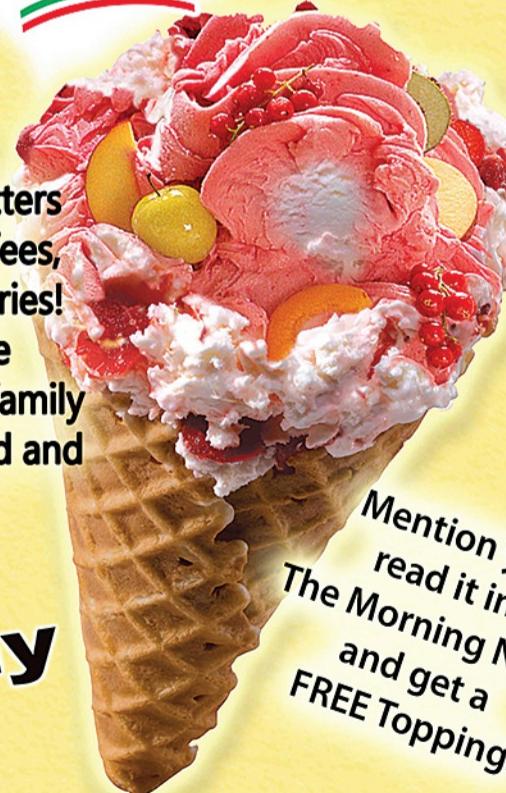
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Qatar to bid for 2024 Olympics

DOHA (AFP) - Doha will make a fresh bid to bring the Olympics to the Middle East for the first time in 2024, having missed out on the 2020 Games.

Gas-rich Qatar, named as surprise host for the 2022 football World Cup, failed to make the short-list for the 2020 Games, leaving Madrid, Tokyo and Istanbul in the running as the leading candidates.

Qatar ranked high in terms of technical ability in its bid

for the 2020 Games, and also offered a degree of certainty in uncertain economic times.

But it has one insurmountable problem that hampers any bid -- the harsh climate.

Temperatures in the Gulf country can soar to a blistering 45 degrees Celsius (113F) in July and August when the Games are usually held.

The IOC granted Doha's bid the rare exception to possibly host the Games in October and November, when the weather is cooler.